



# HF Happenings 825

Volume 16, Issue 35, the week of 10 December 2018

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from [www.sarl.org.za/hf\\_happenings.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp)

Southern African Fauna and Flora <https://zsfaunaandflora.wordpress.com/>

ZS SOTA <https://zsota.wordpress.com>

5 MHz (60 metre) allocations <http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp>



A Summer Christmas

## WSJT-X users

Version 2.0 of *WSJT-X* has been released, and it's time to upgrade. See the *WSJT-X* website for the download links and upgrade information <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx.html>. If you are planning on using FT8 and *WSJT-X* in the ARRL RTTY Roundup, you will need to use version 2.0 of the software [www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup).

## CNPOTA

John, AE5X, writes: "Your readers may be interested to know that there will be (in 2019) a Canadian version of 2016's ARRL NPOTA event." Canadian National Parks on the Air (CNPOTA) occurs during the calendar year of 2019 <https://cnpota.ca/>. Rules are posted on the website <https://cnpota.ca/rules/>.

## 160 Metres

Sure, the Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge is only for 160-metres, and a quarter wave on 160 metres is pretty long. Don't let that deter you from trying to get on for the contest! There's still time to build and use the K6MM "No Excuses" vertical antenna <https://k6mm.com/antennas/160M-QST.pdf>, or one of the many shown in "ON4UN's Low-Band DXing" book. It's traditional in this contest for plaques to be awarded for the use of unique antennas, overcoming difficult operating conditions, or the whim of the plaque sponsor.

## December

- 10 – Closing date for Newbie logs; International Human Rights Day
- 11 – International Mountain Day
- 12 – all schools close
- 12 to 22 – Ek Lief Krismis Market, George
- 14 – Geminids Meteor Showers
- 14 to 16 – Gabrielskloof Favourite Things Market, Overberg
- 14 to 23 – Parys Christmas Market, Parys
- 14 to 30 Trail of Lights, Durban
- 16 – Day of Reconciliation; Groote Post Christmas Market, Darling
- 17 – Public Holiday
- 21 - Summer Solstice
- 22 - Ursid Meteor Showers
- 21 and 22 - Full Moon Hike, Stellenbosch
- 25 - Christmas Day
- 26 - Day of Goodwill/Family Day; the closing date for the January 2019 Radio ZS
- 29 and 30 - Unplugged62 Festival, Barrydale
- 31 - Festival of Lights, Nieu-Bethesda; **The end of the 2018 YOTA Month, the 2018 CQ DX Marathon and the ARRL Grid Chase. Destroy your copy of the 2018 Contest Manual!**

## January 2019

- 1 – New Year's Day; start of the 2019 CQ DX Marathon and the Canadian National Parks on the Air. [Download the 2019 SARL Contest Manual!](#)
- 2 – Minstrel Carnival, Cape Town
- 16 - National Rooibos Day
- 17 to 21 - Wolfkop Weekender, Citrusdal
- 19 and 20 – N3TC Drak Challenge, Underberg
- 26 – Delheim's Harvest Festival, Stellenbosch

## 630 Metres

Steve, VE7SL, is active on 630-metres, where he finds that activity occurs mostly using JT9. He notes that signal levels were strong enough recently to support a CW contact between Larry, W7IUV, and Rolf, LA2XPA. He thinks that it's the first EU to western US CW contact [www.amateurradio.com/630m-the-new-magic-band](http://www.amateurradio.com/630m-the-new-magic-band).

## Word to The Wise

**Filter Ripple** - For a band pass filter, the response across the filter's bandwidth should be as unvarying, or flat, as possible. The variation in the response is called 'ripple'. Ripple causes signal distortion and can adversely affect some digital modes even at low levels.

## Operating Tip

**Rate versus Mode** - In a multi-mode contest, such as the ARRL RTTY Roundup and the January VHF Contest, be aware of when band conditions will support higher rates in a different mode. For example, if 15 metres is closed for RTTY, a zero rate, it might still be open enough to work five or ten stations in an hour on FT8. If conditions on 6-metres are good enough to support CW or SSB contacts, those modes would likely support higher hourly rates if enough stations are there to work.

## Printed circuit board design software

LibrePCB is an Open Source printed circuit board design software project, providing schematic capture, board layout, and component library functionality <https://librepcb.org/>. The just-released version 0.1.0 runs on Unix/Linux, Mac OS X, and Microsoft Windows. This version can "download and create libraries, draw schematics, route multilayer PCBs and export Gerber files" but lacks support for "DRC, BOM export or buses." The authors invite people to try it with their projects; they are promising that improved future versions of the package will be compatible with designs created with today's software.

## African DX

*Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award ([www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp))*

Gabon, TR. Roland, F8EN will be staying in Gabon for 3 months from 16 December onwards. He will be active as TR8CR on 40 to 17 m, maybe also on 80 m using CW and SSB. QSL via F6AJA, direct or via the bureau. <http://lesnouvellesdx.fr/voirlogs.php>



Djibouti, J2. DX-WORLD.net reports: "A DXpedition to Djibouti (J2) in the early part of 2019 is currently in planning stages. Full details in the coming weeks, however DX-World understands that side-trips to both IOTA groups AF-053 and AF-059 are under consideration. A license has been applied for and a callsign should be known soon."

## African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



## 'Suspicious package' at post office was ham radio equipment

The Gainesville Sun reports the U.S. Post Office on Southwest 34th Street was briefly evacuated after the discovery of a suspicious package. The newspaper says, "A suspicious package found Thursday at US Post Office on Southwest 34th Street was deemed non-threatening by law enforcement."



An e-mail sent by Gainesville Police Department spokesman Capt. Jorge Campos said several officers responded to a call from the post office about a large package with pipes and wire coming from it. Campos wrote that the Alachua County Sheriff's Office bomb squad was called out and the building was evacuated. It was eventually determined to be ham radio parts protruding through the box.

Employees were able to return to work. [www.gainesville.com/news/20181207/suspicious-package-at-post-office-was-ham-radio-equipment](http://www.gainesville.com/news/20181207/suspicious-package-at-post-office-was-ham-radio-equipment)

### IARUMS reports on mystery frequency hopping station

IARU-R1 Monitoring System reports an intriguing transmission has been spotted giving short beeps exactly on each second, frequency hopping between 10 108 – 10 115 kHz and 18 834 - 18 899 kHz. One of the mysterious transmitters is located in the vicinity of Chicago, near the town of Aurora or Elburn, Illinois.

The International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring System (IARUMS) Region 1 November 2018 newsletter can be read at <http://www.iarums-r1.org/iarums/news2018/news1811.pdf>

Reports of Amateur Band intruders can be logged on the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System Logger at <http://peditio.net/intruder/bluechat.cgi>

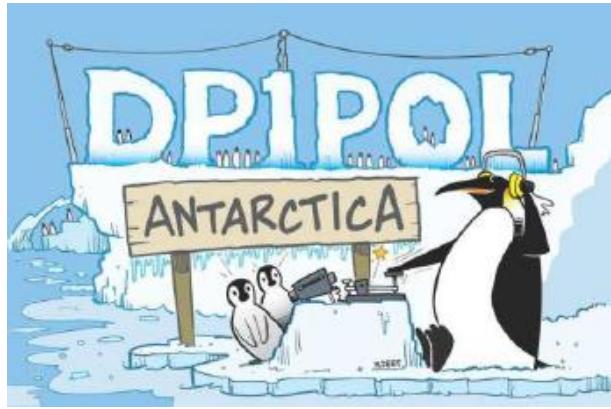
Monitor the short wave bands on-line with a web based SDR receiver at [www.websdr.org/](http://www.websdr.org/)

### Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 10 to 17 December 2018

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint  
01:00 - 03:00 UTC 10 December  
Geographic Focus: North America  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW, SSB  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op  
Exchange: Member: RS(T), state, province or country and member no; Non-member: RS(T), state, province or country and power  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 12 December 2018  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Post log summary at: <http://qrpcontest.com/4sgrp>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
[http://www.4sgrp.com/SSS/ssss\\_rules.pdf](http://www.4sgrp.com/SSS/ssss_rules.pdf)

NAQCC CW Sprint: 01:30 - 03:30 UTC 12 December  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m  
Classes: (none)  
Max power: 5 watts  
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, NAQCC no or power  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member  
Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once;  
Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1.5 x if bug, 1 x if other  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult  
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 16 December 2018



E-mail logs to: [naqcc33@windstream.net](mailto:naqcc33@windstream.net) and [jcoreyc@gmail.com](mailto:jcoreyc@gmail.com)

Upload log at:  
[http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_submit\\_log.html](http://naqcc.info/sprint_submit_log.html)

Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
<http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201812.html>

QRP Fox Hunt  
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 12 December  
Geographic Focus: United States  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 40 m Only  
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound  
Max power: 5 watts  
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 13 December 2018  
E-mail logs to: (see rules)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
[http://www.qrpfoxyhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxyhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

Phone Fray

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 12 December  
Geographic Focus: North America  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: SSB  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m  
Classes: Single Op  
Max power: 100 watts  
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station  
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 14 December 2018  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
[http://www.perluma.com/Phone\\_Fray\\_Contest\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf)

CWops Mini-CWT Test:  
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 12 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 13 December  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Awards: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high  
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: Each call once  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 15 December 2018  
Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/>

NCCC RTTY Sprint  
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 14 December  
Geographic Focus: North America  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: RTTY  
Bands: (see rules)  
Classes: (none)  
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 16 December 2018  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

QRP Fox Hunt: 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 14 December  
Geographic Focus: United States  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 80 m Only  
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound  
Max power: 5 watts  
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 15 December 2018  
E-mail logs to: (see rules)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
[http://www.grpfoxford.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.grpfoxford.org/winter_rules.htm)

NCCC Sprint  
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 14 December  
Geographic Focus: North America  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: (see rules)  
Classes: (none)  
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 16 December 2018  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

UN DIGI Contest  
14:00 – 15:59 UTC and 16:00 – 17:59 UTC 14 December  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: RTTY, BPSK63  
Bands: 160, 80, 40 m  
Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op; SWL  
Exchange: RST and QSO no  
Work stations: Once per band per mode per period  
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO  
Multipliers: Each call prefix once per band per mode per period

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 29 December 2018  
E-mail logs to: [un-digi-c@mail.ru](mailto:un-digi-c@mail.ru)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <http://kfrr.kz/?p=3798&lang=ru>

Russian 160-Meter Contest  
20:00 - 24:00 UTC 14 December  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW, SSB  
Bands: 160 m Only  
Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op  
Exchange: Rus: RS(T) and Oblast code; non-Rus: RS(T) and serial no  
Work stations: Once per mode  
QSO Points: (see rules)  
Multipliers: Each DXCC entity once; Each Oblast once  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 28 December 2018  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Upload log at:  
<http://ua9qcq.com/contests/robot.php>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/90.html>

Feld Hell Sprint  
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 15 December  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: Feld Hell  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m  
Classes: (none)  
Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
Exchange: (see rules)  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: (see rules)  
Bonus Points: (see rules)  
Multipliers: (see rules)  
Score Calculation: (see rules)  
Submit logs by: 19 December 2018  
Upload log at:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/Happy-Birthday-Rudolph-Sprint>

OK DX RTTY Contest  
00:00 - 24:00 UTC 15 December  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op; SWL  
Max operating hours: 24 hours  
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts  
Exchange: RST and CQ Zone  
QSO Points: 10 - 20 m: 1 point same continent, 2 points different continent; 40 - 80 m: 3 points same continent, 6 points different continent  
Multipliers: DXCC Countries, once per band; OK stations, once per band  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (DXCC mults and OK mults)  
Submit logs by: 22 December 2018  
Upload log at:  
<http://okrtty.crk.cz/index.php?page=send-log>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
<http://okrtty.crk.cz/index.php?page=english>

Padang DX Contest  
12:00 UTC 15 December to 11:59 UTC 16 December  
Geographic Focus: Indonesia  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: SSB  
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op - low or high; Multi-Op  
Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts  
Exchange: RS and serial no  
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with same country; 4 points per QSO with same continent; 6 points per QSO with different continent; 20 points per QSO with YB5C  
Multipliers: Each YB prefix once per band; Each country once per band  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 12:00 UTC 23 December 2018  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Upload log at: <https://padangdxc.com/log-submission/>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
<https://padangdxc.com/2015/11/02/padang-dx-contest-dx-station-rules/>

Croatian CW Contest  
14:00 UTC 15 December to 14:00 UTC 16 December  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band - low or high; Multi-Single  
Max operating hours: 24 hours  
Max power: HP: 100 or more watts; LP: <100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and serial no  
 QSO Points: Own continent: 2 points 40 - 160 m, 1 point 10 - 20 m; Other continents: 6 points 40 - 160 m, 3 points 10 - 20 m; 9A stations: 10 points 40 - 160 m, 6 points 10 - 20 m  
 Multipliers: DXCC/WAE Countries, once per band  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 24 December 2018  
 Upload log at: <http://www.hamradio.hr/hfrobot>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at:  
<https://9acw.org/index.php/rules/english/129-rules-2018>

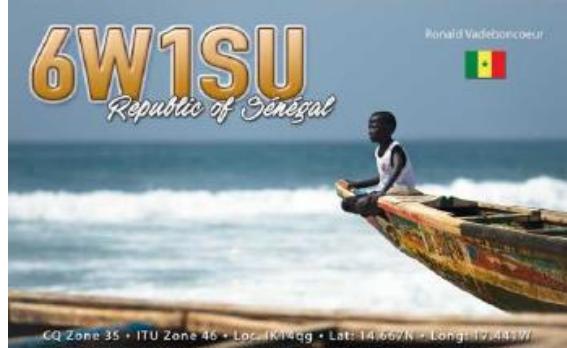
ARRL Rookie CW Roundup  
 18:00 - 23:59 UTC 16 December  
 Geographic Focus: North America  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m  
 Classes: Single Op Rookie; Multi-Op Rookie; Non-Rookies  
 Max power: 100 watts  
 Exchange: NA: Name, 2-digit year first licensed and state, province, XE area or DX  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-rookie; 2 points per QSO with rookie  
 Multipliers: Each US state and DC once; Each VE province once; Each XE call area once; One DX once  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 19 December 2018  
 E-mail logs to: (none)  
 Post log summary at:  
[http://www.b4h.net/arrlrr/rr\\_scoresubmission.php](http://www.b4h.net/arrlrr/rr_scoresubmission.php)  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest  
 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 17 December  
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Single Band  
 All Band  
 Max power: 5 watts  
 Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent  
 Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 23 December 2018  
 E-mail logs to: (none)  
 Upload log at:  
<http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun/autolog.php>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun/>

## Next Week's Contests

NAQCC CW Sprint, 01:30 - 03:30 UTC 19 December  
 QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 19 December  
 Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 19 December  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 19 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 20 December  
 NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 21 December  
 QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 21 December  
 NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 21 December  
 AGB-Party Contest, 16:00 - 17:00 UTC 21 December  
 RAEM Contest, 00:00 - 11:59 UTC 23 December



*Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter*